

Bible Story 3: CAIN'S ANGER AGAINST HIS BROTHER ABEL

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 4:1-16; HEBREWS 11:4; 1 JOHN 4:19-21

MEMORY VERSE: I JOHN 4:7A

BIBLE STORY:

Adam and Eve had disobeyed God by eating the forbidden fruit. They had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden.

Their first son was born and they called him Cain. Later their second son, Abel, was born.

Cain and Abel helped their parents. Abel was a shepherd, taking care of the sheep. Cain was a farmer, cultivating the land.

One day, the two brothers dedicated offerings to God.

By faith, Abel wanted to thank God for His help: for the water that the sheep drank, the plants that they ate and the sun, everything that helped the sheep grow and multiply. With thankfulness, Abel brought some of the fattest portions from the firstborn of his flock of sheep as an offering to God, who deserved the best offering. God was very pleased with Abel's offering.

The other brother, Cain, had just brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to God. God was not as pleased with Cain's offering.

God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's offering.

Consequently, Cain was very angry and sulked. God talked with him. He asked him why he was so upset. If he would bring the right offering, wouldn't it be accepted? Certainly. Then God warned Cain to control his anger.

But instead, one day the two brothers were out in the field and Cain spoke to his brother. In his anger, Cain attacked Abel and killed him.

Later God asked Cain, "*Where is Abel, your brother?*"

Cain replied, "*I don't know. Am I suppose to keep up with my brother?*"

God knew that Cain had killed his brother Abel. God severely punished him. Cain would no longer get crops from the land, but be a wanderer, traveling from one place to another.

Cain did not ask forgiveness for killing his brother, but told God that the punishment was more than he could endure. Cain left the presence of the Lord and lived in the land of Nod.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. Abel and Cain brought their offerings to God. Bring your offerings to God.
2. God was very happy with Abel's offering. Why? By faith, Abel brought his offering, some of his fattest, firstborn sheep. Bring your best offerings to God.
3. Cain was very angry with his brother Abel and killed him. Love others and treat them kindly. How? When you have problems with family members, friends or colleagues, try to resolve your problems peacefully, without fights.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What was Abel's offering to God? Was it acceptable to God? Why?
2. What was Cain's offering to God? Was it acceptable to God? Why?
3. Should offerings, or gifts, be given to God? Why? What offerings or gifts may be given to God today? How?
4. What should be our attitude about giving our offerings and gifts to God?
5. Why was Cain so angry with his brother? What did he do to his brother?
6. What are some consequences of losing one's temper?
7. What are some ways we can help control our temper?
8. How can we avoid fights?
9. Was Cain sorry that he had killed his brother or sorry that he was being punished?
10. What should we do after we get angry and have lost our temper to someone?
11. Did God discipline Cain because of what he had done? How?
12. Will God discipline us for our actions? How can we receive God's forgiveness?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

DRAMA:

– Divide the class into different groups. Each group receives a piece of paper that tells about a conflict situation or a picture of a conflict situation. They must dramatize the situation and show the best way to resolve it without fighting.

GUEST SPEAKER:

- Invite an adult (such as pastor or psychiatrist) to share ways that adults, teens and children can control their anger. Be sure the person speaks on the level of the age group present. Do not frighten the individuals present. Have discussion so that each one may ask questions.

GAME: "IMAGINATION"

– Cut newspaper articles or pictures from newspapers or magazines that show fights and conflicts. (Avoid pictures with grotesque fights.)
 – After the story say: *"Today we will use our imagination."*
 – Show a picture and ask, *"What is happening in this picture?" "How can these people resolve and avoid this fight or conflict?"*
 – Continue showing pictures and asking these questions.

GAME: "FELLOWSHIP"

– Get together for fellowship. Fix hot dogs, hamburgers or other kinds of food.
Option 1: SPORTS EVENT OUTSIDE
 – Have a picnic at a park and play different sport activities (such as baseball, football, soccer, volleyball, etc.).
Option 2: SPORTS EVENT INSIDE
 – Watch on TV your favorite team play a game.
 – Play table games, etc. together.

MISSION ACTIVITY:

– Make a special effort to reconcile a broken relationship.

ACTIVITY: DVD CLIPS

– Show different clips of movies where a conflict arises. Then ask the group, "What happened in the scene? How could this problem be resolved? Is there anyway to avoid this kind of situation taking place?"
 – Some examples of scenes to show:
 ...Conflict between family members
 ...Conflict at work
 ...Conflict at school (teacher, student, bullying, etc.)
 ...Conflict between neighbors
 ...Conflict at a sports event

GAME: "WHO AM I?"

– Pin on the back of each individual a sheet of paper with a name of a person or a picture of an object (examples: Abel, Bible, table, sheep, etc.). Each one must guess who or what he is by asking yes or no questions. The others can only answer yes or no. (Example: a person with the name "Abel" on his back may ask: *"Am I an object?"* (Answer: "No.") Ask, *"Am I a person?"* (Answer: "Yes.") Question: *"Am I a person in the Bible story today?"* (Answer: "Yes.") Ask, *"Am I Cain?"* (Answer: "No.") Ask, *"Am I Abel?"* (Answer: "Yes!") If someone has difficulty discovering his name or object, the group may do gestures to help that person.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Genesis 4:1-16; 1 John 4:19-21; Hebrews 11:4

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Genesis 4:1-2	Genesis 4:3-5	Genesis 4:6-7	Genesis 4:8-9	Genesis 4:10-12	Genesis 4:13-16	Hb. 11:4 1 Jn. 4:19-21